

Statewide Independent Living Council
July 15-16, 2008
Ramada Inn, Aberdeen, South Dakota

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:	Ryan Green	Josia Fuerst	Gaye Mattke
	Grady Kickul	Jamie Mack	Linda Biffert
	Gary Wald	Patrick Czerny	Brad Konechne
	Larry Puthoff	Margot Burton	Alex Gourneau
	Philomine Moran	Marilyn Kinsman	Jim Simbeck

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:	Jason Lorang	Vona Johnson
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OTHERS PRESENT:	Vicki Kerkvliet	<u>DSU Staff:</u>	<u>SILC Staff:</u>
	Ann Fortin	Denise White	Shelly Pfaff
	Carol Rockwell		Laura White
	Ed Pinkman	<u>Interpreters:</u>	
	Marlys Sutton	Jeannie Schmidt	
	Jim Miklos	Julie Paulich	
	Vicki King		
	Mary Ann Schroeder		

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Ryan Green called the meeting to order at 1:20 p.m.

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS:

- Ryan stated that he was overwhelmed with all the new faces. It appears the council has a very good representation. He thanked new and continuing members, in advance, for their dedication to the SILC's work.
- All in attendance introduced themselves.
- New members were recognized - Patrick Czerny, Margot Burton, Brad Konechne, Alex Gourneau, and Jim Simbeck.
- Meeting Protocol was reviewed.

AGENDA: Motion to approve the agenda – Made, Seconded and Carried (MSC).

MINUTES: Motion to approve the April 16, 2008 meeting minutes – MSC.

**PUBLIC
COMMENTS:**

Shelly asked to step out of role and address the SILC as Freedom to Work Project Staff. The Chair approved Shelly's request. The upcoming Mike Walling Trainings will be 8/18 in Sioux Falls, 8/19 in Aberdeen, 8/20 in Ft. Pierre, 8/21 in Eagle Butte, and 8/22 meeting with the Benefits Specialist. She also explained that Mike would be back in October.

Several members spoke on their participation at past trainings and the value it held in store for them.

- Grady encouraged everyone to attend a session, and reminded members that they could be reimbursed for related expenses.
- Jamie Mack stated it was very important to go. It took him more than once to get all the information so no one should be afraid to go twice or more.
- Jim Simbeck echoed the benefits of the trainings. He learned things he didn't even know he needed to know.
- Brad Konechne has attended the sessions a couple times and the second time he thinks most of it sunk in but will definitely be attending again.
- This is the 5th year that the Freedom to Work Project has brought Mike to SD. We keep bringing him back because he brings so much new and important information to our consumers.

RECOGNITION OF OUTGOING MEMBERS:

Grady took a moment to thank the outgoing members.

- Betty Coon - We wish her the best in dealing with her health issues and thank her for her time and commitment.
- Betsy Valnes - Moving to DC to pursue graduate school. She will still be involved in the National Youth Leadership Network. We thank her for her past support and wish her the best in this next step.
- Mark Arneson - Mark has decided he wants to become one of our success stories and become fully employed. He was just nominated to a term as the Vice Chairman for NAMI Consumer Council. We will miss him but again wish him the best and look forward to hearing about his successes.

Plaques have been ordered and will be presented at a later date to outgoing members to recognize them for their service.

**WHY ARE WE
HOSTING A
PUBLIC
CONVERSATION:**

Over the past year the SILC has begun to change focus. We have refocused on working with other organizations and working with centers to make a bigger impact or difference for persons needing IL services. There are four official centers in SD:

- OIL - Opportunities for Independent Living, Aberdeen
- PFC - Prairie Freedom Center for Independent Living, Sioux Falls
- WRDI - Western Resources Disabled Independence, Rapid City
- NAAP - Native American Advocacy Project, Winner
- CSD - Communication Services for the Deaf, Sioux Falls, is not officially considered a CIL under federal requirements.

SILC wants to host meetings where these centers are located so we can hear more directly from those being served or needing services. Public conversation is one of the best ways to get consumer input. It is more relaxed and user friendly, and more conducive to the people sharing their concerns and needs.

- For today's public conversation we have a sheet with conversation starters to help each of you to feel more comfortable facilitating conversation. There is a survey of services. Please ask them to fill it out. There is a sign-in sheet.
- This time isn't designed to make new members feel overwhelmed. We want members to feel free to sit at a table with older members and to speak up and voice opinions.

The discussion moved on to a brief history of the SILC and review of the SILC brochure. There will be a more in-depth orientation at the next meeting.

Gary shared real life scenarios of consumers served to help members know what CILs do. It is important to know that every situation is different and, although working toward the same goals, each CIL is different.

ADJOURNMENT FOR DAY ONE: **Motion to adjourn the meeting and move to time for public conversation – MSC.** Official meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

RECONVENE TO ORDER: Chairman Green reconvened the meeting at 8:35 a.m.

DEBRIEFING OF PUBLIC CONVERSATION:

- Ryan started by thanking Gary and all the Aberdeen people. “They deserve a pat on the back, there was a great turn out, good representation of the community, and wow even the Mayor showed up to check things out. Thank you again.”

Other SILC member comments were:

- Excellent conversation and fantastic representation; this should be done at more SILC meetings. I benefited a lot.
- Our table didn’t have anyone from the public but it turned into a great learning session. We had a good conversation amongst ourselves. I feel as though it doesn’t matter if there is a lot of public or not that show, we should continue to do this format. I have learned more than I expected. Excellent job.
- We had some good conversation at our table. We had one lady bring up the inconsistencies throughout CILs. She would like to see each CIL offer the same services. We had shared information on locations, staffs, and coverage area and explained that it really is different for every situation and for every Center. She was surprised to learn this information and left satisfied she had gotten some answers.
- There were comments also on how CILs could become more involved with school systems, and making their services more accessible.
- Impressed with the presence of the Mayor’s Committee in Aberdeen, and their impact on the community. I applaud Aberdeen for their involvement. There are many good things happening in Aberdeen and having a Mayor on board makes a huge difference. What a great atmosphere - very relaxed and lots of information being shared. I think the smaller groups lend to more relaxed conversation. It isn’t as threatening as speaking to a committee as a whole. People are more willing to share their thoughts and concerns.

**PUBLIC
COMMENTS:**

It was suggested SILC start holding time for public conversation at each SILC meeting in the different locations. It will be the responsibility of the CIL serving that territory to invite the public to come and to work with SILC Staff to make it happen.

Grady spoke about the Youth Leadership Forum (YLF) that took place June 16th to 19th.

- It was the 10 Year Anniversary.
- It has grown to the point of over 40 delegates.
- There is a lot of relationship building, building of self-esteem, information sharing, education and FUN.
- Juniors and seniors from across South Dakota come to participate.
- For the first time the Annual Richard L. Hicks Memorial Award was presented to an alumni. It was given to Cody Wynett, a very successful young man, and it all started with YLF.
- This is a great opportunity that we offer to high school youth with disabilities.

Grady invited Brad to share his thoughts on YLF.

- Before YLF, I didn't know there were people with disabilities that succeeded. YLF gave me an opportunity to say, Yes, I Can! It gave me the opportunity to meet others with disabilities and know that I wasn't alone in my struggle. In my community, I was the only one I knew with a disability and I didn't think there was any chance for college or succeeding. After YLF, I am in college and I have the tools I need to be the best I can and my opportunities are open now and I can see and I can set goals and know that it is possible to reach them. I now serve as support staff at YLF and continue to learn and grow from the experience.

Gary Wald invited members to attend the presentation of, "The Music Within", it will be shown at the Red Rooster at 7:00 p.m.

- Everyone was encouraged to take the time to watch this movie. It is available at Movie Rental Stores and on Pay-Per-View.
- Grady stated that he would see to it that copies are available at the COALITION for individuals to check out.

Ryan shared a thank you card from the YLF students for the

SILC's support and contributions to this year's event.

**DRS
DIRECTOR'S
REPORT:**

Grady is excited to see SILC moving in a new direction and refocusing on being a guiding force for Independent Living services in SD.

The DSU, when appropriate, still reports on important regulatory and fiscal issues.

The Financial Work Group is currently working on goals. They plan to have rates set and the process done by the end of Fiscal Year 2009. FY2009 contracts have been signed and put into place.

**DSBVI
DIRECTOR'S
REPORT:**

OLDER BLIND INDEPENDENT LIVING PROGRAM UPDATE:

Gaye reported:

- Jennifer Luther is a new teacher in Sioux Falls. We are currently looking into how to most efficiently use an available FTE.
- Transition Week will be held July 27th through August 1st. There will be 11 student participants. They will stay at the University of Sioux Falls dorms. They will work on skills training, meet with employers, and have recreational activities. The mentors are a key part of the experience. It gives the participants a good look at what options may be available in their futures.
- Focus on Success will be held September 30th through October 2nd at the Best Western Ramkota Hotel in Sioux Falls, SD.
 - Everyone is welcome, especially individuals who are blind or visually impaired, parents, family members, students, teachers, and professionals in education, rehabilitation and independent living.
 - The program will address options for education, vocational rehabilitation and adult services for individuals who are blind or visually impaired.
 - Ollie Cantos, Department of Justice, will be speaking at the event. He is also available to host a disability related forum with various organizations.

**DRS IL PROGRAM
SPECIALIST
REPORT:**

Denise stated:

- All the contracts are in place with the CILs and COALITION.
- Budgets started June 1st and end May 31st.

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DSS UPDATE:

Marilyn Kinsman reported:

- Past Monday attended the Open House for the Traumatic Brain Injury wing at Sunrise Villa in Irene, SD.
- It is a facility for people that are 22 years of age or older.
- There are eight apartments and we are so grateful that Avera stepped up and made this a reality.
- August 18th the first two individuals will transition in from out of state.
- By October 1st we will have all eight individuals in place.
- There are 16-20 individuals on a waiting list.
- The whole process started in November 2006, and we are witnessing the first facility in SD. Hopefully in the future we will see other facilities being created to fill the need of bringing our people home to SD and closer to families.
- This facility is deemed as a transition facility. We hope to be able to send individuals back to their families and communities to live fulfilling lives.
- The strength of the facility in Irene is Avera's Partnership with DSS and others.
- Another great partner is the ATC in Yankton.
- We are moving in the right direction.
- Grady stated they are working with the VA in Rapid City due to the number of Veterans returning with brain injuries. At this time they are sent to Ft. Carson, CO, an Army Facility. There is a real need to develop awareness so needs can be met here in SD.

The Caregivers Conference will be August 19th and 20th in Sioux Falls. You can obtain a brochure by contacting Marilyn.

Long Term Care Study

- Given the number of elderly citizens in SD the Department of Social Services, in conjunction with the Governor's Healthcare Commission, has formed a task force to identify needs. House Bill 1156 was a request for a study of the state's Long Term Care System.
- APT Associates out of Utah were hired to review our system.
- They have made several trips to SD and have visited and interviewed people and organizations across the state,

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- including tribal individuals and organizations.
- By the year 2025 the number of elderly will double in SD, they will comprise 25% of the State's population, and 10% of the elderly will have disabilities.
- Long term care facilities themselves are very old in SD.
- More and more elderly want to stay in their own homes.
- There are approximately 100 members on the Task Force which is broken down into three sub committees:
 - Right Sizing and Rebalancing
 - Expansion of Home and Community Services
 - Financing of the revised long-term care system.
- Recommendations are due to the Governor by November 1st, 2008.
- SD is promoting Long Term Care Partnerships.
- A survey has been submitted, and SD has done well in this area.
- A Partnership allows an individual to set funds aside for long-term use and not be penalized in the future.

ASSOCIATION OF CIL'S:

The Association has not met so there is no report.

REPORT FROM CENTERS:

Opportunities for Independent Living, Aberdeen

Gary Wald introduced his staff and thanked everyone again for coming to Aberdeen and participating in the public conversation yesterday.

- At this time they are wrapping up a home loan grant extension request. Five people will benefit from this grant if it is extended.
- The Advocacy position has not yet been filled.
- We have renewed our contracts for the Huron Office space.
- Trying to get time studies done and done right.
- Have not started the Cost Report process.
- The Mayor's Committee is sponsoring a showing of the movie, "The Music Within" tonight.
- Disability Awareness Day is scheduled for July 25th at 1:00 p.m. at Wyllie Park.
- The Harley tickets sold out on June 26th.
- The Board has talked about sponsoring a raffle for an All-

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Terrain Vehicle. (ATV) We will sell 1,100 tickets for \$5 a piece.

- We have a waiting list of 14 for ramps. We have used up all of our existing stock.
- OIL was instrumental in getting taxi service for people who use wheel chairs. An accessible van was purchased with the help from OIL and other entities. Sometimes you have to do what you have to, to get something done. The taxi service is going very well, and it is available 24/7 for ALL citizens.
- OIL covers 19 counties and has 4 IL specialists to cover the territory.

Ryan thanked OIL Staff for all they do to serve people in their territory.

Prairie Freedom Center for Independent Living

Vicki Kerkvliet reported we are currently wrapping up a six-week transition workshop.

- Eighteen students are participating this summer, there were 30 applicants.
 - They worked on independent living life skills, transportation, interviewing, cleaning, cooking, housing and budgeting.
 - Currently we have students from the Canton, Tea, Harrisburg and Brandon areas. The school district pays for transportation costs.
 - We had three teachers this year and classes run for three hours in the morning and three hours in the afternoon.
 - We will help co-sponsor an ADA celebration on July 26th in Mitchell with the Chamber of Commerce.
 - We have a social group that meets the first Monday every month, sponsored by the Sioux Falls Area Foundation. It is a group of young adults that meet for social time activities.
 - Our golf tournament will be July 19th, tee time is at 9:00 a.m.
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- The SILC agreed that they should hire an individual to facilitate the Council's work to set goals, and develop a plan for the future.

SET THE STAGE FOR FUTURE MEETINGS:

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- One goal for the SILC is to be able to clearly state what is our role.
- Discussion followed on the need for new member orientation. Continuing members would like to participate.

Suggestions:

- An orientation day that starts in the afternoon of one day and then breaks for the evening so everyone can digest and come back in the morning for further discussion and learning.
- Perhaps have a public conversation in between the orientation and regular meeting.
- Would like to see this orientation take place in October.
- Regular business meeting follows time for public conversation.

**OTHER
BUSINESS:**

- There will be an ADA celebration in Rapid City on July 26th.
- Gary invited everyone for lunch in Gallery B compliments of OIL at the conclusion of this SILC meeting.

**FUTURE
ACTIONS:**

SCHEDULING OF NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be scheduled in Pierre the week of October 6th.

- WRDI is in charge of this territory so Shelly will contact Ann Van Loan and get the details worked out for marketing a time for public conversation.
- The suggested meeting agenda is:
 - Tuesday Orientation from 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
 - Wednesday Orientation from 9:00 a.m. - Noon
 - Wednesday SILC meeting 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
 - Wednesday Public Conversation 3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
 - Thursday SILC meeting 9:00 a.m. - Noon

ADJOURNMENT: Motion to adjourn the meeting – MSC. Meeting was adjourned at 11:21 a.m.